

have been gradually and greatly reduced, through the persevering efforts of the War Department, and a reasonable hope may be entertained that the necessity for military operations in that quarter will soon cease. The removal of the Indians from within our settled borders is nearly completed. The pension list, one of the heaviest charges upon the Treasury, is rapidly diminishing by death. The most costly of our public buildings are either finished or nearly so; and we may, I think, safely promise ourselves a continued exemption from the difficulties.

The available balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January next is estimated at one million and a half of dollars. This sum, with the expected receipts from all sources during the next year, will, it is believed, be sufficient to enable the Government to meet every engagement, and leave a suitable balance in the Treasury at the end of the year, if the remedial measures connected with the customs and the public lands, heretofore recommended, shall be adopted, and the new appropriations by Congress shall not carry the expenditures beyond the official estimates.

The new system established by Congress for the safe-keeping of the public money, prescribing the kind of currency to be received for the public revenue, and providing additional guards and securities against losses, has now been several months in operation. Although it might be premature, upon an experience of such limited duration, to form a definite opinion in regard to the extent of its influences in correcting many evils under which the Federal Government and the country have hitherto suffered—especially those that have grown out of banking expansions, a depreciated currency, and official delinquencies, yet it is but right to say that nothing has occurred in the practical operation of the system to weaken in the slightest degree, but much to strengthen the confident anticipations of its friends. The grounds of these have heretofore been so fully explained as to require no recapitulation. In respect to the facility and convenience it affords in conducting the public service, and the ability of government to discharge, through its agency, every duty attendant on the collection, transfer, and disbursement of the public money with promptitude and success I can say, with confidence, that the apprehensions of those who felt it to be their duty to oppose its adoption, have proved it to be unfounded. On the contrary, this branch of the fiscal affairs of the government has been, and it is believed may always be, thus carried on with every desirable facility and security. A few changes and improvements in the details of the system, without affecting any principles involved in it, will be submitted to by the secretary of the treasury, and will, I am sure, receive at your hands that attention to which they may, on examination be found to be entitled.

I have deemed this brief summary of our fiscal affairs necessary to the due performance of a duty especially enjoined upon me by the constitution; it will serve also more fully to illustrate the principles by which I have been guided in reference to two contested points in our political policy, which were earliest in their development, and have been more important in their consequences than any which have arisen under our complicated and difficult yet admirable system of government; I allude to a national debt and a national bank. It was in these that the political contests by which the country has been agitated ever since the adoption of the constitution, in a great measure originated; and there is too much reason to apprehend that the conflicting interests and opposing principles thus marshalled, will continue as heretofore, to produce similar if not aggravated consequences.

Coming into office the declared enemy of both, I have earnestly desired to prevent a resort to either.

The consideration that a large public debt affords an apology, and in some degree, a necessity, also, for resorting to a system and extent of taxation which is not only oppressive throughout, but likewise is apt to lead, in the end, to the commission of that most odious of all offenses against the principles of a republican government, the prostitution of political power, conferred for the general benefit, to the aggrandizement of particular classes, and the gratification of individual cupidity, is alone sufficient, independently of the weighty objections which I have already been urged, to render its creation and existence the source of bitter and unappeasable discord. If we add to this, its inevitable tendency to produce and foster extravagant expenditures of the public money, by which a necessity is created for new loans and new burdens on the people; and finally, if we refer to the example of any government which has existed, for proof how seldom it is that the system, when once adopted and implanted in the policy of a country, has failed to expend itself, until public credit was exhausted and the people were no longer able to endure its increasing weight, it seems impossible to resist the conclusion that no benefits resulting from its career, no extent of conquest, no accession of wealth to particular classes, nor any, nor all its combined advantages, can counterbalance its ultimate but certain results—a splendid government and an impoverished people.

If a national bank was, as is undeniable, repudiated by the framers of the constitution as incompatible with the rights of the States and the liberties of the people—if from the beginning it has been regarded by large portions of our citizens as coming in direct collision with that great and vital amendment of the constitution, which declares that all powers not conferred by that instrument on the general government are reserved to the States and to the people, if it has been viewed by them as the first great step in the march of latitudinarian construction which, unchecked, would render that sacred instrument of as little value as an unwritten constitution, dependent as it would alone be for its meaning, on the interested interpretation of a dominant party, and affording no security to the rights of the minority, if such is undoubtedly the case, what rational grounds could have been conceived for anticipating aught but determined opposition to such an institution at the present day?

Could a different result have been expected when the consequences which have flowed from its creation, and particularly from its struggles to perpetuate its existence, had confirmed, in so striking a manner, the apprehension of its earliest opponents; when it had been so clearly demonstrated that a concentrated money power, wielding so vast a capital, and combining such incalculable means of influence, may, in those particular conjunctures to which this government is unavoidably exposed, prove an overmatch for the political character of its capacity to regulate, according to its will and its interests, and the interests of its favorites, the value and production of the labor and property of every man in this extended country had been so fully and fearfully developed, when it was notorious that all classes of this great community had, by means of

the power and influence it thus possesses, been infected to madness with a spirit of heedless speculation; when it had been seen that, secure in the support of the combination of influences by which it was surrounded, it could violate its charter and set the laws at defiance with impunity; and when, too, it had become most apparent that to believe that such an accumulation of powers can ever be granted without the certainty of being abused, was to indulge in a fatal delusion.

To avoid the necessity of a permanent debt, and its inevitable consequences, I have advocated, and endeavored to carry into effect, the policy of confining the appropriations for the public service to such objects only as are clearly within the constitutional authority of the Federal Government; of excluding from its expenses those improvident and unauthorized grants of public money for works of internal improvement, which were so wisely arrested by the constitutional interposition of my predecessor, and which, if they had not been so checked, would long before this time have involved the finances of the General Government in embarrassments far greater than those which are now experienced by any of the States; of limiting all our expenditures to that simple, unostentatious, and economical administration of public affairs, which is alone consistent with the character of our institutions; of collecting annually from the customs and the sales of public lands, a revenue fully adequate to defray all the expenses thus incurred, but, under no pretence whatsoever, to impose taxes upon the people to a greater amount than was actually necessary to the public service, conducted upon the principles I have stated.

In lieu of a national bank, or a dependence upon banks of any description, for the management of our fiscal affairs, I recommend the adoption of the system which is now in successful operation. That system affords every requisite facility for the transaction of the pecuniary concerns of the Government; will, it is confidently anticipated, produce in other respects many of the benefits which have been from time to time expected from the creation of a national bank, but which have never been realized; avoid the manifold evils inseparable from such an institution; diminish, to a greater extent than could be accomplished by any other measure of reform, the patronage of the Federal Government—a wise policy in all Governments, but more especially so in one like ours, which works well only in proportion as it is made to rely for its support upon the unbiased and undistorted opinions of its constituents; do away, forever, all dependence on corporate bodies, either in the raising, collecting, safekeeping, or disbursing of the public revenues; and place the Government equally above the temptation of fostering a dangerous and unconstitutional institution at home, or the necessity of adapting its policy to the views and interests of a still more formidable money-power abroad.

It is by adopting and carrying out those principles, under circumstances the most arduous and discouraging, that the attempt has been made, thus far successfully, to demonstrate to the people of the United States that a national bank at all times, and a national debt, except it be incurred at a period when the honor and safety of a nation demand the temporary sacrifice of a policy which should only be abandoned in such exigencies, are not merely unnecessary, but in direct and deadly hostility to the principles of their Government, and to their own permanent welfare.

The progress made in the development of these positions, appears in the preceding sketch of the past history and present state of the financial concerns of the Federal Government. The facts there stated fully authorize the assertion, that all the purposes for which this Government was instituted have accomplished during four years of greater pecuniary embarrassment than were ever before experienced in a time of peace, and in the face of opposition as formidable as any that was ever before arrayed against the policy of an administration; that this has been done when the ordinary revenues of the Government were generally decreasing, as well from the operation of the laws, as the condition of the country, without the creation of a permanent public debt, or incurring any liability, other than such as the ordinary resources of the Government will speedily discharge, and without the agency of a national bank.

If this view of the proceedings of the Government, for the period it embraces, be warranted by the facts as they are known to exist; if the army and navy have been sustained to the full extent authorized by law, and which Congress deem sufficient for the defence of the country and the protection of its rights and its honor; if its civil and diplomatic service has been equally sustained; if ample provision has been made for the administration of justice and the execution of the laws; if the claims upon public gratitude in behalf of the soldiers of the Revolution have been promptly met, and faithfully discharged; if there have been no failures in defraying the very large expenditures growing out of that long-continued and salutary policy of peacefully removing the Indians to regions of comparative safety and prosperity; if the public faith has at all times, and every where, been most scrupulously maintained by prompt discharge of the numerous, extended, and diversified claims on the Treasury;—if all these great and permanent objects, with many others that might be stated, have, for a series of years, marked by peculiar obstacles and difficulties, been successfully accomplished without a resort to a public debt, or the aid of a national bank; have we not a right to expect that a policy, the object of which has been to sustain the public service independently of either of these fruitless sources of discord, will receive the fiscal sanction of a people whose unbiased and fairly elicited judgment upon public affairs is never ultimately wrong?

That embarrassments in the pecuniary concerns of individuals, of unexampled extent and duration, have recently existed in this as in other commercial nations, is undoubtedly true. To suppose it necessary now to trace these reverses to their sources, would be a reflection on the intelligence of my fellow citizens. Whatever may have been the obscurity in which the subject was involved during the earlier stages of the revolution, there cannot now be many by whom the whole question is not fully understood.

Not deeming it within the constitutional powers of the General Government to repair private losses sustained by reverses in business having no connexion with the public service, either by direct appropriations from the treasury, or by special legislation designed to secure exclusive privileges and immunities to individuals or classes in preference to, and at the expense of, the great majority necessarily debarred from any participation in them, no attempt to do so has been either made, recommended, or encouraged by the present Executive.

It is believed, however, that the great purposes for the attainment of which the Federal

Government was instituted, have not been lost sight of. Entrusted only with certain limited powers, cautiously enumerated, distinctly specified, and defined with a precision and clearness which would seem to defy misconstruction, it has been my constant aim to confine myself within the limits so clearly marked out; and so carefully guarded. Having always been of opinion that the best preservative of the union of the states is to be found in a total abstinence from the exercise of all doubtful powers on the part of the Federal Government, rather than in attempts to assume them by a loose construction of the constitution, or an ingenious perversion of its words, I have endeavored to avoid recommending any measure which I had reason to apprehend would, in the opinion even of a considerable minority of my fellow citizens, be regarded as trenching on the rights of the States, or the provisions of the hallowed instrument of our Union. Viewing the aggregate powers of the Federal Government as a voluntary concession of the states, it seemed to me that such only should be exercised as were at the time intended to be given.

I have been strengthened, too, in the propriety of this course, by the conviction that all efforts to go beyond this, tend only to produce dissatisfaction and distrust, to excite jealousies, and to provoke resistance. Instead of adding strength to the Federal Government, even when successful, they must ever prove a source of incurable weakness, by alienating a portion of those whose adhesion is indispensable to the great aggregate of united strength, and whose voluntary attachment is, in addition, far more essential to the permanency of government, strong in the best strength—the confidence and all those who make up its constituents.

Thus believing, it has been my measure to the whole people, and to every member of the confederacy, by general, salutary, and equal laws alone, the benefit of those republican institutions which it was the end and aim of the constitution to establish, and the impartial influence of which is, in my judgment, indispensable to their preservation. I cannot bring myself to believe that the lasting happiness of the people, the prosperity of the States, or the permanency of their Union, can be maintained by giving preference or priority to any class of citizens in the distribution of benefits or privileges, or by the adoption of measures which enrich one portion of the Union at the expense of another; nor can I see in the interference of the Federal Government with the local legislation and reserved rights of the States, a remedy for present, or security against future dangers.

The first, and assuredly not the least, important step towards relieving the country from the condition into which it has been plunged by excesses in trade, banking, and credits of all kinds, was to place the business transactions of Government itself on a solid basis; giving and receiving in all cases value for value, and neither countenancing nor encouraging in others that delusive system of credits from which it has been found so difficult to escape, and which has left nothing behind it but the wrecks that mark its fatal career.

That the financial affairs of the Government are now, and have been during the whole period of these widespread difficulties, conducted with a strict and inviolable regard to this great and fundamental principle, and that by the assumption and maintenance of the standard thus taken on the very threshold of the approaching crisis, more than by any other cause, or causes whatever, the community at large has been shielded from the incalculable evils of a general and indefinite suspension of specie payments, and a consequent annihilation, for the whole period it might have lasted, of a just and invariable standard of value, will, it is believed, at this period, scarcely be questioned.

A steady adherence, on the part of the Government, to the policy which has produced such salutary results, aided by judicious State legislation, and, what is not less important, by the industry, enterprise, perseverance, and economy of the American people, cannot fail to raise the whole country, at an early period, to a state of solid and enduring prosperity, not subject to be again overthrown by the suspension of banks or the explosion of a bloated credit system. It is for the people, and their representatives, to decide whether or not the permanent welfare of the country (which all good citizens equally desire, however widely they may differ as to the means of its accomplishment) shall be this way secured; or whether the management of the pecuniary concerns of the Government, and, by consequence, to a great extent those of individuals also, shall be carried back to a condition of things which fostered those contractions and expansions of credit, and those reckless abuses of credit, from the baleful effects of which the country has so deeply suffered—a return that can promise, in the end, no better results than to reproduce the embarrassments the Government has experienced; and to remove from the shoulders of the present, to those of fresh victims, the bitter fruits of that spirit of speculative enterprise to which our countrymen are so liable, and upon which the lessons of experience are so unavailing. The choice is an important one, and I sincerely hope that it may be wisely made.

A report from the Secretary of War, presenting a detailed view of the affairs of that department, accompanies this communication.

The desultory duties connected with the removal of the Indians, in which the army has been constantly engaged on the northern and western frontiers, and in Florida, have rendered it impracticable to carry into full effect the plan recommended by the Secretary for improving its discipline. In every instance where the regiments have been concentrated, results may be anticipated from a continuance of this system. During the last season, a part of the troops have been employed in removing the Indians from the interior to the territory assigned them in the west—a duty which they have performed efficiently, and with praiseworthy humanity; and that portion of them which have been stationed in Florida, continued active operations there throughout the heats of summer.

The policy of the United States in regard to the Indians, of which a succinct account is given in my message of 1833, and of the wisdom and expediency of which I am fully satisfied, has been continued in active operation throughout the whole period of my administration. Since the Spring of 1837, more than forty thousand Indians have been removed to their new homes west of the Mississippi, and I am happy to add, that all accounts concur in representing the results of this measure as eminently beneficial to that people.

The emigration of the Seminoles alone has been attended with serious difficulty, and occasioned bloodshed; hostilities have been commenced by the Indians in Florida, under the apprehension that they would be compelled,

by force, to comply with their treaty stipulations. The execution of the treaty of Payne's Landing, signed in 1832, but not ratified until 1834, was postponed, at the solicitation of the Indians, until 1836, when they again renewed their agreement to remove peaceably to their new homes in the west. In the face of this solemn and renewed compact, they broke their faith, and commenced their hostilities by the massacre of Major Dade's command, the murder of their agent, General Thompson, and other acts of cruel treachery. When this alarming and unexpected intelligence reached the seat of Government, every effort appears to have been made to reinforce General Clinch, who commanded the troops then in Florida. General Eustis was dispatched with reinforcements from Charleston; troops were called out from Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia; and General Scott was sent to take the command, with ample power and ample means. At the first alarm, General Gaines organized a force at New Orleans, and, without waiting for orders, landed in Florida, where he delivered over the troops he had brought with him, to Governor Call.

Governor Call was subsequently appointed to conduct a summer campaign, and at the close of it was replaced by General Jesup. These events and changes took place under the administration of my predecessor. Notwithstanding the exertions of the experienced officers who had command there for eighteen months, on entering upon the administration of the Government I found the Territory of Florida a prey to Indian atrocities. A strenuous effort was immediately made to bring the hostilities to a close; and the army under General Jesup, was reinforced until it amounted to ten thousand men, and furnished abundant supplies of every description. A campaign a great number of the enemy captured and destroyed; but the character of the contest only was changed. The Indians having been defeated in every engagement, dispersed in small bands throughout the country, and became an enterprising, formidable, and ruthless banditti. General Taylor, who succeeded General Jesup, used his best exertions to subdue them, and was seconded in his efforts by the officers under his command; but he, too, failed to protect the Territory from their depredations.

By an act of signal and cruel treachery, they broke the truce made with them by General Macomb, who was sent from Washington for the purpose of carrying into effect the expressed wishes of Congress, and have continued their devastations ever since.

General Armstrong, who was in Florida when General Taylor left the army, by permission, assumed the command, and, after active summer operations, was met by propositions for peace; and, from the fortunate coincidence of the arrival in Florida, at the same period, of a delegation from the Seminoles, who are happily settled west of the Mississippi, and are now anxious to persuade their countrymen to join them there, hopes were for some time entertained that the Indians might be induced to leave the Territory without further difficulty. These hopes have proved fallacious, and hostilities have been renewed throughout the whole territory. That this contest has endured so long, is to be attributed to causes beyond the control of the Government. Experienced generals have had the command of the troops; officers and soldiers have alike distinguished themselves for their activity, patience, and enduring courage; the army has been constantly furnished with supplies of every description; and we must look for the causes which have so long protracted the issue of the contest in the vast extent of the theatre of hostilities, the almost insurmountable obstacles presented by the nature of the country, the climate, and the wily character of the savages.

The sites for marine hospitals on the rivers and lakes, which I was authorized to select and cause to be purchased, have all been designated, but the appropriation not proving sufficient, conditional arrangements only have been made for their acquisition. It is for Congress to decide whether those conditional purchases shall be sanctioned, and the humane intentions of the law carried into full effect. The navy, as will appear from the accompanying report of the Secretary, has been usefully and honorably employed in the protection of our commerce and citizens in the Mediterranean, the Pacific, on the coast of Brazil, and in the Gulf of Mexico. A small squadron, consisting of the frigate Constellation and the sloop-of-war Boston, under Commodore Kearney, is now on its way to China and India seas, for the purpose of attending to our interests in that quarter; and Commodore Aulick, in the sloop-of-war Yorktown, has been instructed to visit the Sandwich and Society Islands, the coasts of New Zealand and Japan, together with other ports and islands frequented by our whalers, for the purpose of giving them countenance and protection, should they be required. Other smaller vessels, have been, and still are, employed in prosecuting the surveys of the coast of the United States, directed by various acts of Congress; and those which have been completed will shortly be laid before you.

The exploring expedition, at the latest date, was preparing to leave the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, in further prosecution of objects which have, thus far, been successfully accomplished. The discovery of a new continent, which was first seen in latitude 68.2 south, longitude 153.27 east, and afterwards in latitude 66.31 south, longitude 153.40 east, by Lieutenants Wilkes and Hudson, for an extent of 1800 miles, but on which they could not land in consequence of the ice, is one of the honorable results of the enterprise. Lieut. Wilkes bears testimony to the zeal and good conduct of his officers and men; and it is but just to that officer to state that he appears to have performed the duties assigned him with an arduous, ability, and perseverance, which give every assurance of an honorable issue to the undertaking.

The report of the Postmaster General, herewith transmitted, will exhibit the service of that department the past year, and its present condition. The transportation has been maintained during the year to the full extent authorized by the existing laws; some improvements have been effected, which the public interest seemed urgently to demand, but not involving any material additional expenditure, the contractors have generally performed their engagements with fidelity; the postmasters, with few exceptions, have rendered their accounts and paid their quarterly balances with promptitude; and the whole service of the department has maintained the efficiency for which it has for several years been distinguished.

The acts of Congress establishing new mail routes, and requiring more expensive services on others, and the increasing wants of the country, for three years past, carried the expenditures something beyond the accruing revenues, the excess having been met, until the past year, by the surplus which had previously accumulated. That surplus having

been exhausted, and the anticipated increase in the revenue not having been realized, owing to the depression in the commercial business of the country, the finances of the department exhibit a small deficiency at the close of the last fiscal year. Its resources, however, are ample; and the reduced rates of compensation for the transportation service, which may be expected on the future lettings, from the general reduction of prices, with the increase of revenue that may reasonably be anticipated from the revival of commercial activity, must soon place the finances of the department in a prosperous condition.

Considering the unfavorable circumstances which have existed the past year, it is a gratifying result that the revenue has not declined, as compared with the preceding year, but, on the contrary, exhibits a small increase; the circumstances referred to having had no other effect than to check the expected income.

It will be seen that the Postmaster General suggests certain improvements in the establishment, designed to reduce the weight of the mails, cheapen the transportation, ensure greater regularity in the service, and secure a considerable reduction in the rates of letter postage—an object highly desirable. The subject is one of general interest to the community, and is respectfully recommended to your consideration.

The suppression of the African slave-trade has received the continued attention of the Government. The brig Dolphin and schooner Grampus have been employed the last season on the coast of Africa, for the purpose of preventing such portions of that trade as was said to be prosecuted under the American flag. After cruising off those parts of the coast usually resorted to by slave-ships, until the commencement of the rainy season, these vessels returned to the United States for supplies, and have since been despatched on a similar service.

From the reports of the commanding officers, it appears that the trade is now principally carried on under the Portuguese colors, and they express the opinion that the apprehension of their presence on the slave-coast has, in a great degree, arrested the prostitution of the American flag to this inhuman purpose. It is hoped that, by continuing to maintain this force in that quarter, and by the exertions of the officers in command, much will be done to put a stop to whatever portion of this traffic may have been carried on under the American flag, and to prevent its use in a trade which, while it violates the laws, is equally an outrage on the rights of others and the feelings of humanity.

The efforts of the several Governments who are anxiously seeking to suppress this traffic must, however, be directed against the facilities afforded by what are now recognized as legitimate commercial pursuits, before the object can be fully accomplished. Supplies of provisions, water casks, merchandise, and articles connected with the prosecution of the slave trade, are, it is understood, freely carried by vessels of different nations to the slave factories; and the effects of the factors are transported openly from one slave station to another, without interruption or punishment by either of the nations to which they belong, engaged in the commerce of that region. I submit to your judgment whether this Government, having been the first to prohibit, by adequate penalties, the slave trade,—the first to declare it piracy—should not be first, also, to forbid to its citizens all trade with the slave factories on the coast of Africa; giving an example to all nations in this respect, which, if fairly followed, cannot fail to produce the most effective results in breaking up those dens of iniquity.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1840.

#### From the Journal of Commerce. AN INDIAN CHIEF.

The life and death of Nicholas Cusick, Chief of the Tuscarora Indians.

MEANS. Editors:—From the North American, Baptist Register, and other sources, I have prepared the following notice of the life and death of one of the most interesting Indian characters ever known in this country; and shall be happy to see it published in your paper.

Died, at Tuscarora village, Oct. 29, 1840, Nicholas Cusick, aged 82 years, 4 months, and 17 days, long a principal chief of the Tuscarora Indians. He was born at the Oneida Reservation June 15th, 1758. His father was an English merchant of a very wealthy and respectable family. At the age of ten years he was placed at school at Johnston, under the patronage of Sir William Johnson, where he remained several years and then returned to his own people. He was the son of a Revolutionary war hero, the commander of the Revolutionary war hero, the British government was anxious to secure his services in favor of the crown, and through the medium of a distinguished officer proposed to him a commission in the army with a large salary, but he utterly refused the offer saying, "I will not fight against my own soil, but I will be a defender of my country." At this remark the British officer was highly offended. Shortly after this, the agent of the provincial government held a council with the friendly Oneida Indians, and Nicholas Cusick offered himself as a volunteer, and as such enlisted in the army under General Washington. He soon received a lieutenant's commission, and joined the army with about fifty Tuscarora warriors, whom he had induced to espouse the cause of American Independence. He continued in active service about five years, and from his knowledge of the English and Indian languages he was of essential service in matters regarding the Indians. He was in several engagements under Generals Wayne and Lafayette. On many occasions he appears to have rendered important services as a scout. One of these deserves to be particularly mentioned. At a time when General Lafayette was encamped on the Delaware river, near the city of Philadelphia, he had designed to join battle with the British. He accordingly drew up his army in order for battle. But Cusick went before him with his warriors, as spies, and finally came so close to the British dragons that he very narrowly escaped from their hands. He however ascertained that the British army was more than 6000 strong, which fact he communicated to Gen. Lafayette, who in view of his army which numbered but about 3000, prudently resolved not to encounter the British, but retreated and joined the main army under General Washington; thus Cusick instrumentally saved the army from probable destruction and defeat. At the close of the war a pension of \$300 was granted to him by the United States government which he has received until the present time. Shortly after the restoration of peace, he was appointed by the Six Nations principal chief of the Tuscaroras, and during the time he held that office he was ever regarded as faithful in using his endeavors for the good of his people, and of the United States.

When the late war was declared, immediately on the receipt of the intelligence, at the head of a large number of his tribe, he went forth and volunteered his services in defence of his country. Those services were accepted, and he, with two of his sons, had the honor of fighting by the side of Generals Brown, Scott, and Porter, in the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane. For the gallantry of himself and tribe, the British soldiers and the Indians in the British service, while they had possession of Fort Niagara, at the mouth of

Niagara river, paid their village, which was miles distant, a visit, and brought back with them the fields waste, and it was not until the close of the war that they were permitted to turn in quiet to their homes.

With Cusick is buried a fund of interesting history of the different tribes of the Six Nations. It is to be lamented that the knowledge which he possessed has not been committed to some work and preserved for the use of the country, but of whom we are not sure. Of this Cusick had a lively sense, and he remained to mark the places of their graves, and he most melancholy thought, that in years more, not one of all the warriors of his race, who once inhabited this portion of the Western regions of the north, would be found to claim descent from the soil to serve as a resting place for the dead.

I have many times visited the grave of Cusick, and was truly so. In a letter written to me, he placed, it required but a momentary stay to discover that a masterful man, and a man of stature he was about 6 feet 1 inch, with well proportioned limbs. His features were of a character, strongly marked, with an open, frank countenance. He was not of the common type of personage, who on the slightest opportunity, receive an indelible impression on the mind, and is retained in the latest days of his life. I heard him relate the scenes of a past life, and earlier days. It was highly interesting, and at times to watch the changes which came over his face as the visions of the past flitted before him, one moment his eye, which was usually piercing would beam with delight as he dwelt on the deeds of charity or humanity which some of his red kindred had performed, and at other moments that same eye seemed to flash when in strains of eloquence he related some of his own adventures.

It is over fifty years since he professed Christianity and at that time united with a national church in Oneida county. He was subsequently appointed an interpreter among the Six Nations of the Missionary Society being, in which different denominations were included. In this capacity he travelled with many missionaries, to whom he was strongly attached. His interpretations were ever, regular, very faithful, and were highly useful to the Indians. He resigned his office about 10 years since, owing chiefly to his advanced age and infirmities. He offered himself as a member of the Tuscarora Baptist Church in May 1839, and being received was baptized. He was a man of a faithful and worthy member of the church, and has taken a deep interest in its prosperity. His last sickness he enjoyed the consolations of religion, and was entirely resigned to the will of his heavenly father, waiting for his discharge. "On one occasion," said his son, "he lay on a short time to be somewhat rested, and observed to me, 'My son, as my name was not mentioned when I was baptized, I fear I have written in the book of life.' I told him that the Bible for our direction, I took with me, and read before him 'Go ye and all nations baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,' and I said, 'It is not in our own name we are to be baptized, but the name of God in his holy trinity.' I said this, his countenance was changed, he was happy, and he was filled with consolation. He dwelt on the richness of Grace towards him. Oh how happy he died, causing those that were near him to exclaim, 'O death, where is thy sting, where is thy victory?' O pray for the Lord may surely my afflictions be multiplied." The name of Nicholas Cusick was numerous, and a discourse was delivered by brother L. from 1 Cor. xv. 55.

Tuscarora village, where a great part of the life of the Chief was spent, is situated on the bank of the river, and is now the name of Lawton. It is the northern termination of the strata of lime rock which underlies the hills of the country several hundred miles in extent, and reaches south to the Allegheny mountains. The tribe now numbers about two hundred and eighty persons altogether, and is decreasing. There has been a missionary school in the tribe for the last thirty years, within the three last. Most of those who own the soil can speak the English language and many of them can both read and write. There are few among them who are devout and several of them are devout members of the church. Among the latter is a son of the late Chief, named James Cusick, who was numerous, and now supplying the place of the former mission.

From the N. Orleans Com Bulletin of Nov. 1. LATEST FROM MEXICO. Mexican Treachery.—Texan volunteers

By the schooner Doric, arrived yesterday at Tampico, we learn that the Texan volunteers to the number of 150, who crossed the border under Canales, to aid the federal party, were delivered up to Gen. Montago at San Luis. The commander-in-chief declining to accept them as soldiers.

The defeat of the federal army at Victoria the month of March last, caused Melan Cárdenas and his escape into Texas, where they were received by the people, with the customary kindness and hospitality. After several ineffectual applications to the government for aid and assistance, they published inflammatory proclamations, depicting, in strongest terms, the wrongs and injuries of the unfortunate countrymen, who, it was alleged, were ruled with a rod of iron by tyrants and despots. These false representations, backed up by promises of land and money, roused the spirit of many a daring youth in Texas and induced them to flock in hundreds to their standard on the river Nueces, with military stores, &c. The news of the late revolt in the city of Mexico gave an additional impulse to the enterprise, quickened their movements and hastened their march to the frontier.

On their arrival on the banks of the Rio Grande they learned with astonishment that the revolution at the capital had proved to be a failure, and that the existing state of affairs left little hope of making a formidable impression in the country, with the handful of men composing their forces, and if they returned to Texas they would be unable to fill the many obligations contracted there. This apparent hopeless condition produced a secret consultation between Canales Melan and Cárdenas, who finally determined to withdraw all the foreigners in their ranks, and to provide they could make terms with the authorities, and that of their Mexican followers, to order a rapid and nefarious plan into effect, was deemed advisable to divide their forces and pursue different routes. Melan passed the river first, with about 150 foreigners and some Mexicans; and by false pretences succeeded in coying them into the interior as far as Victoria, where he ended a secret correspondence with Gen. Arista, about the middle of August, and closed to him his perfidious designs. The proposal was accepted by Arista, with alacrity; but as he was unwilling to stain his hands by openly participating in a transaction so turpitude, he ordered Melan to proceed to the hills and deliver his victims into the hands of Gen. Montago. In the vicinity of that place the 23d all the fore goers were shamefully executed to the enemy, consisting of more than 100 times their own number. They fought like lions to the last, and evinced a heroic conduct, and a better cause and a better fate. Four hundred have fallen a sacrifice to the duplicitous treachery of Melan, a man who betrayed his father during the Mexican struggle for independence—who has thrice been a traitor to his